

Appln. No. 09/961,094
Reply to the Official Action of September 4, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 2 and 3 have been canceled. Claims 1 and 4-14 remain active in the case.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended by placing the limitation of Claim 2 therein so that the claimed slurry is directed to a hydrophobic zeolite. All dependent claims therefore dependent on a claim limited to a hydrophobic zeolite. No claims intervene between Claims 1 and 2. Accordingly entry of the amendments to the claims is respectfully requested.

Prior Art Rejection, 35 USC 102

Claims 1-3 and 5-7 stand rejected based on 35 USC 102 or 35 USC 103 as anticipated or rendered obvious over Nakamura et al, U.S. Patent 5,504,051. This ground of rejection is believed overcome by the amendments made to the claims by which the zeolite is limited to hydrophobic zeolite. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

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It is now believed that the application is in proper condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Norman F. Oblon
Attorney of Record
Registration No.: 24,618

Frederick D. Vastine, Ph.D.
Registration No.: 27,013

Customer Number
22850

TEL: 703-413-3000
FAX: 703-413-2220

NFO/FDV